



# Uniform Law Commission

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMISSIONERS ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

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Joint Committee on Judiciary  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2500  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 418: the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act and the Uniform Certificate of Title Act for Vessels**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Uniform Law Commission (ULC), I am writing in my capacity as Legislative Counsel in support of Senate Bill 418, a bill seeking to enact the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act and the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act. Both acts were completed and approved by the ULC last summer. Each act is the result of a one-year study and two-year drafting process which included several key stakeholders as well as advisors from the American Bar Association (ABA). Both acts have been approved by the American Bar Association.

***The Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act***

The Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) provides states with a consistent, outcome-based approach to the authentication and preservation of electronic legal material. The goals of the authentication and preservation program outlined in the act are to enable end-users to verify the trustworthiness of the legal material they are using and to provide a framework for states to preserve legal material in perpetuity in a manner that allows for permanent access. The American Association of Law Libraries was key in identifying the need for the act, participated in the drafting process as an observer, and is in full support of UELMA. Our two largest national publishers of legal material, LexisNexis and Thomson Reuters, also participated as observers, and have raised no concerns about the act. UELMA will

provide Connecticut with choice and flexibility about electronic publication of legal materials rather than trying to establish rigid technological standards that are prone to becoming outdated.

*The Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act*

Much like certificate of title law for motor vehicles, the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act (UCOTVA) seeks to regulate all vessels of at least nineteen and a half feet in length for which a certificate of title is issued. The act applies if the vessel is used principally on the water ways of Connecticut. UCOTVA protects boat owning residents of Connecticut from fraud in the titling of stolen vessels. Additionally, the UCOTVA includes a novel title-branding provision for hull damage, which protects Connecticut boat buyers who may unwittingly purchase a vessel that has hidden structural damage and is therefore unseaworthy and unsafe. Also, UCOTVA includes rules on security interests that are consistent with the most recent revisions to the Uniform Commercial Code.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary to vote in favor of Senate Bill 418 to adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act and the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act in Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Julal", written in a cursive style.

Nicole Julal  
Legislative Counsel